Children are especially vulnerable to the effects of vehicle emissions because their lungs and airways are immature. Also, their breathing zone is lower than adults so they are more exposed to vehicle exhausts and heavier pollutants that concentrate at lower levels in the air.

Vehicle exhaust emits chemicals that have harmful effects. Carbon monoxide diminishes the blood’s ability to carry oxygen to the body. Nitrogen oxides irritate upper air passages and the lungs. Other exhaust toxins such as benzene are classified as probable or definite carcinogens.